

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013**

**The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 14, 2013, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.**

**Present: Paul Silva, Chair; Karen A. Lynch, Secretary; Susan Rancourt, Treasurer; Diana B. Campbell, Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, John P. Saviano and Lynn Wainwright; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel; Pauline Silva, Director of Administration**

**Absent: John Bento, Vice-chair**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

**All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**ACCOLADES**

**Congratulations to Melissa Velleca for being presented the Channel**

**10 Golden Apple Award by Patrice Wood and Commissioner Gist. Mrs. Thies thanked Ms. Velleca for her professionalism, hard work, and dedication to her students.**

**Congratulations to Guiteras 5th grade student Zoe Mouligne whose artwork design was chosen for the 2012 Bristol Warren Regional School District Christmas card. Mrs. Thies commented on how much she enjoyed the artwork on this year's card.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM**

**None.**

#### **AGENDA FOCUS**

##### **Induction Coach Presentation**

**Mr. Gino Sangiuliano introduced himself and stated he has been working in the Bristol Warren Regional School District for the last two years as an induction coach. He commented that in the audience were some of the educators he has worked with during this time.**

**Ms. Hilda Potrzeba introduced herself and stated that she coordinates the Induction Coach Program through the Race to the Top Grant.**

**They began their presentation by reading the following quote, "Teachers are not "finished products" when they complete a teacher**

**preparation program. Strong residency and mentored induction experiences during their initial years in the classroom provide beginning teachers with invaluable support as they lay the groundwork to become accomplished teachers. A well-planned, systematic induction program for new teachers is vital to maximize their chances of being successful in any school setting...”**

**The following are highlights from the Induction Coach Program presentation:**

**Mentoring to Induction - a rigorous training program is in place. Coaches spend a minimum of 90 minutes per day in the classroom. Mr. Sangiuliano supports teachers through best practice and uses data collected by coaches. RIDE also collects and uses this data.**

**Meetings - Induction coaches meet every four to six weeks with the beginning teacher focusing on different aspects of data collected through observation.**

**Program Quality - 97% of administrators and 98% of beginning teachers felt this program was effective with a positive impact to student learning.**

**Induction Coaches Assignments - There are 27 induction coaches each assigned to 15-16 beginning teachers. There are a total of 429 beginning teachers (170 elementary and 257 middle/high school).**

**There are 28 unassigned beginning teachers. (These will be covered in the next year.)**

**RI Impact - With 412 beginning teachers with an average of 20 students per class being supported by 27 induction coaches the impact is a minimum of 8,580 students will be reached to target student achievement this year.**

**Mr. Sangiuliano asked two beginning teachers to come up and give testimonies related to their experiences with having an induction coach. Both reported how worthwhile the experience was to their growth as new teachers and the valuable lessons they have learned.**

**Mr. Sangiuliano thanked everyone for allowing him to present and welcomed and encouraged anyone who would like to shadow him for a day. He then opened the meeting up for questions.**

**Mr. Saviano asked how much travel is involved on a typical day for an induction coach. Mr. Sangiuliano responded that they try very much to limit travel when making coach's assignments. A coach usually covers 15 teachers.**

**Mrs. Wainwright asked how long funding will last through the Race to the Top grant. Ms. Potrzeba responded that funding will run out at the end of the next school year. However, they are in discussions now looking in to ways to sustain this program. They are hoping to**

**branch out and work in alignment with the Evaluation Program. Mrs. Thies stated that the district is looking into ways of possibly sharing services and trying to be proactive in this.**

**Mrs. Campbell commented that she feels this program must help also in the retention of beginning teachers. Ms. Potrzeba said that Rhode Island doesn't have an issue with retention of beginning teachers and believes this program is helping teachers get through the emotional issues and doubts that come with the territory of just starting out as a new teacher.**

**Mr. Saviano asked if there is a coach from Bristol Warren Regional School District. Ms. Potrzeba responded that at this time there is no one trained from the district. Mr. Saviano also asked if 15 is a good number of teachers for an Induction Coach to be assigned and Ms. Potrzeba responded that it has been determined that anywhere from 12-15 is an optimal number. It would be extremely costly to reduce those numbers down. By keeping to the optimal number of 12-15 she feels the program is getting the "most bang for the buck".**

**Mr. Sangiuliano gave the definition of a "beginning teacher" as one who is an educator hired to a district for a full year where they have never opened or closed a school year before.**

**Ms. Potrzeba stated that all statistics and data for the Induction Coach Program can be found at [www.newteachercenter.org](http://www.newteachercenter.org)**

**Mr. O'Dell asked what the organizational structure of the program is and Ms. Potrzeba gave an overview as well as stating that she is the person who oversees the program. Her position comes under RIDE.**

**Mrs. Rancourt asked how Induction Coaches are chosen. Ms. Potrzeba responded that superintendents make nominations which is then followed by a rigorous interview process. Mrs. Rancourt followed up by asking if there is tenure for coaches. Ms. Potrzeba responded that it is a year by year assignment which ideally they like to have at least two years and then the coaches are released back to the district.**

**Mr. Saviano asked how beginning teachers are chosen. Ms. Potrzeba stated that they are all automatically assigned an induction coach.**

**Chairman Silva thanked Mr. Sangiuliano and Ms. Potrzeba for a truly informative presentation.**

### **Program of Studies**

**Ms. Jen Copeland started out by saying a majority of the changes to the 2013-2014 Program of Studies consisted of language changes.**

**Listed below are the areas where these changes were made.**

**1. Honor Roll**

**2. Pre-AP Weight**

- 3. Title Change (Deadline to Change a Course)**
- 4. Incomplete Language**
- 5. Name Changes**
  - a. Reading Clinic**
  - b. LiteracyLab**
  - c. Physical Science**
  - d. SAT Prep – Mathematics**
  - e. Food, Nutrition and Wellness**
- 6. Additions**
  - a. Journalism**
- 7. Deletions**
  - a. Algebra 1 Part 2**
- 8. Enhancements**
  - a. Advanced Digital Recording EEP**
  - b. Advanced Engineering Design (Pending EEP approval)**
  - c. Visual Arts/Graphics Course Descriptions**

**Discussion related to above items:**

**#1 – Ms. Copeland stated that the middle school voted to have their honor roll mirror that of the high school. A discrepancy had been found and this will be changed for the next school year when at that time, the two honor rolls will be consistent.**

**#5 - Ms. Copeland explained that the above “Name Changes” are classes that are already in the Program of Studies but they wanted to change the names to be more indicative to what the course was truly**

**about and to align more with RIDE language. The hope is that this will help to encourage more students to sign up for those classes.**

**#5 - Mrs. Wainwright asked what the interest has been for the Food, Nutrition and Wellness class, and Ms. Copeland stated there has been a high interest among students and anticipates it will increase even more.**

**#7 - Ms. Copeland explained the rationale for deleting Algebra 1 Part 2 is due to being part of a phasing out program because the Algebra 1 course is more intensified now and this year there are no students who will need Algebra 1 Part 2.**

**Mrs. Campbell asked that when aligning the Student Handbook, does it trickle down to the objectives. Ms. Copeland responded yes.**

**Mrs. McBride said she would like to see a copy of the student agenda. Ms. Copeland explained that it was originally in the Student Handbook and will now also appear in the Program of Studies.**

**Mrs. McBride brought up a concern with the language related to the Music curriculum with the use of the word “will perform” indicating mandatory extracurricular activities in order to pass a music course which contradicts the current policy in the student handbook which states if a student is failing a class, they cannot participate in ANY extracurricular activities. The rationale for establishing this policy is**

that academics should come first for every student, especially if they miss a class that they are failing to attend one of these mandatory extracurricular activities. Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Campbell both echoed Mrs. McBride's concerns. Mrs. Campbell was also concerned that mandating a student to attend such extracurricular activities could be a hardship for some families who do not have the resources to participate. Mrs. Campbell also stated she will not vote to approve the Program of Studies if this is not changed. Ms. Copeland responded stating that she will bring their concerns back to the administrators and report back to the school committee. Mrs. McBride said that she would like to see the Policy Subcommittee write a school committee policy to address the above concerns. Ms. Copeland clarified that the use of the language "will perform" was not a change this year and was already in place the year prior. Mr. Saviano stated he had no doubt the administrators will come back and address the school committee concerns.

Mr. Silva closed by saying he is glad that they are increasing the EEP credits and thanked them for that.

Mrs. Thies thanked Ms. Copeland for her presentation stating that this is a process to have discussion and then a time for reflection. This is not an action item at this time and will be voted on at a future School Committee meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

**Recommendation #S2012-51: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of four (4) Bristol families to home school their children for the 2012-2013 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.**

**MOTION: Mr. Saviano motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded.**

**DISCUSSION: Mrs. Wainwright asked where these students have been prior to now. Mr. Andrade responded that one of the families was delayed in submitting paperwork and after an investigation they complied with the district and all required documents have been received. The requests had to wait until now for recommendation because there hadn't been a business meeting. The other family is new to the district.**

**Upon reviewing the situation in answer to Mrs. Wainwright's question it became apparent that the recommendation needed to be amended as it listed request for approval of four (4) Bristol families when it should have read two (2) Bristol families.**

**MOTION: Mrs. Campbell motioned to amend Superintendent Recommendation #S2012-51 to read "Recommendation #S2012-51: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the**

**Superintendent, approve the request of four (4) two (2) Bristol families to home school their children for the 2012-2013 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A vote was then taken to approve Superintendent Recommendation #S2012-51 for home school requests and passed 7-1 with Mrs. McBride opposed.**

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:38 PM**

**MOTION: At 8:38 PM Mr. Saviano motioned to adjourn Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/kd**